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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6436
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 HARARE 003482

SIPDIS

AF FOR A/S RICE, P/DAS POWELL AND DAS SCHNEIDMAN
AF/S FOR A. RENDER, D. BOOTH, AND T. FAULK
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH
PASS USAID FOR AFR/SA WJEFFERS

1E. O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL PHUM PGOV ZI EU ZANU PF
SUBJECT: EU INTERIM REPORT ON ELECTIONS TAKES A TOUGH STANCE
ON ZANU-PF INTIMIDATION AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

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11. SUMMARY: THE EUROPEAN UNION OBSERVER MISSION ISSUED AN
INTERIM STATEMENT ON ZIMBABWE'S JUNE 24-25 PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS AT MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 25-26. THE REPORT COVERS THE
PRE-ELECTION PERIOD AND THE VOTING; A LATER REPORT WILL
COVER THE VOTE COUNT AND THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD. THE EU
DETERMINED THAT:

-- THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE VOTED IN LARGE NUMBERS, SHOWING
DETERMINATION TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY
DESPITE VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION.

-- ELECTORAL OFFICIALS DID NOT OPERATE IN AN OPEN AND
TRANSPARENT MANNER, AND AS A RESULT FAILED TO SECURE THE
CONFIDENCE OF BOTH THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND OF THE
INSTITUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

-- ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTRUCTIONS IMPEDED THE WORK OF DOMESTIC
AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS. THIS WAS "NOT DUE TO
ADMINISTRATIVE INCOMPETENCE BUT TO A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO
REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INDEPENDENT MONITORING OF THE
ELECTION."

-- HIGH LEVELS OF VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION, AND COERCION,
PARTICULARLY BY ZANU-PF, MARRED THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.
"ZANU-PF LEADERS SEEMED TO SANCTION THE USE OF VIOLENCE AND
INTIMIDATION AGAINST POLITICAL OPPONENTS AND CONTRIBUTED
SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE CLIMATE OF FEAR SO EVIDENT DURING THE
ELECTION CAMPAIGN."

-- EU OBSERVERS' "OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE POLLING IS
HIGHLY POSITIVE." HOWEVER, THERE WERE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH
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THE VOTERS' ROLL AND A LARGE NUMBER OF INTENDING VOTERS WERE
UNABLE TO VOTE.

END SUMMARY.

12. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE EU STATEMENT:

ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS 2000

INTERIM STATEMENT

PIERRE SCHORI
HEAD OF EU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION

INTRODUCTION

THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE VOTED IN LARGE NUMBERS IN THIS
WEEKEND'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. DESPITE A HIGH LEVEL OF
VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION DURING THE CAMPAIGN, AND SERIOUS
FLAWS AND IRREGULARITIES IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, THEY HAVE
SHOWN A CLEAR DETERMINATION TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF THEIR

COUNTRY -- BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND THROUGH THE STRUCTURES OF CIVIL SOCIETY.

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES HAVE CO-OPERATED WITH ZIMBABWE POLITICALLY AND FINANCIALLY SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1980. THE EU IS THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. AS AN ACT OF COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, THE EU DEPLOYED SOME 190 EXPERIENCED EU OBSERVERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER MISSION, WITH THE AIM OF CONTRIBUTING TO A MORE FAVOURABLE

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CLIMATE FOR THE ELECTIONS. WE SEE OUR PRESENCE HERE AS A NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF OUR SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE; AND WE WISH TO BUILD A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH A PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC ZIMBABWE.

EU OBSERVERS WERE IN GENERAL WARMLY WELCOMED. THEY ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY. THEY ATTENDED SOME ONE HUNDRED POLITICAL RALLIES. THE EU MISSION ALSO BENEFITED FROM CO-OPERATION WITH THE MONITORS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER MISSIONS.

THE EU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION'S ASSESSMENT OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS FALLS INTO THREE PHASES: THE ELECTION PREPARATIONS AND CAMPAIGN; VOTING AND THE COUNT; AND THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD. A FINAL REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED ON 3 JULY 2000.

THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD AND THE CAMPAIGN

IT IS CLEAR FROM THE DAILY REPORTS AND WEEKLY ASSESSMENTS MADE BY EU OBSERVERS IN EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY THAT THERE WERE SERIOUS FLAWS AND FAILURES IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

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THE BODY EFFECTIVELY RUNNING THE ELECTIONS, THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL, DID NOT OPERATE IN AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT MANNER, AND AS A RESULT FAILED TO SECURE THE CONFIDENCE OF BOTH THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

THE ELECTORAL SUPERVISORY COMMISSION, WHICH IS CONSTITUTIONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, WAS SYSTEMATICALLY RENDERED INEFFECTIVE BY BOTH LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS.

CHANGES MADE TO THE ELECTORAL REGULATIONS ONLY DAYS BEFORE THE VOTE, TOGETHER WITH A SERIES OF DELIBERATE ADMINISTRATIVE OBSTRUCTIONS, SEVERELY UNDERMINED THE ABILITY OF DOMESTIC MONITORS TO CARRY OUT THEIR WORK. THE EU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS WAS NOT DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE INCOMPETENCE BUT TO A

DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INDEPENDENT MONITORING OF THE ELECTION. SIMILAR OBSTRUCTIONS WERE PLACED IN THE WAY OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.

VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION

HIGH LEVELS OF VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION AND COERCION MARRED THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. AN ASSESSMENT OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION SINCE FEBRUARY 2000 MADE BY THE EU ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION, TOGETHER WITH REPORTS FROM EU OBSERVERS OPERATING THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY SINCE EARLY JUNE, INDICATE THAT ZANU-PF WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BULK OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE.

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ZANU-PF LEADERS SEEMED TO SANCTION THE USE OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION AGAINST POLITICAL OPPONENTS AND CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE CLIMATE OF FEAR SO EVIDENT DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. CALLS FOR PEACEFUL CAMPAIGNING AND EFFORTS TO RESTRAIN PARTY SUPPORTERS, INCLUDING THE WAR VETERANS, WERE OFTEN AMBIGUOUS. OVERALL, THE CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW AND COMPROMISED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

MDC SUPPORTERS WERE ALSO ENGAGED IN VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION, BUT THE DEGREE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES WAS FAR LESS. MOREOVER, MDC LEADERS WERE CLEARER IN THEIR CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE.

THE LEVELS OF VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION, AND THE ABILITY TO CAMPAIGN IN RELATIVE PEACE, VARIED CONSIDERABLY FROM ONE PART OF THE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER. EU OBSERVERS MONITORED SCORES OF POLITICAL RALLIES IN ALL PROVINCES OF THE COUNTRY ORGANISED BOTH BY ZANU-PF AND MDC.

IN THE MAJOR CITIES, ALTHOUGH INTIMIDATION WAS FAR FROM ABSENT, THE CAMPAIGN WAS ROBUST. IN MANY RURAL AREAS, HOWEVER, THE LEVELS OF INTIMIDATION BY ZANU-PF WERE SO INTENSE AS TO MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE OPPOSITION TO CAMPAIGN.

MEDIA COVERAGE

DURING THE CAMPAIGN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA DID NOT PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES CONTESTING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ELECTION. BOTH THE PUBLIC BROADCASTER, THE ZBC, AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPERS WERE USED AS PUBLICITY VEHICLES FOR ZANU-PF. THE ZBC FAILED TO ENSURE INFORMED POLITICAL DEBATE. PROPAGANDA CROWDED OUT THE REAL ISSUES OF THE CAMPAIGN. OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE HAD TO RELY ON COMMERCIAL MEDIA ONLY.

VOTING AND THE COUNT

GENERALLY SPEAKING THE VOTING WAS CALM AND WELL ORGANISED. THE EU OBSERVER TEAMS, WORKING IN CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF CIVIC ORGANISATIONS, VISITED SOME 1,700 POLLING STATIONS OVER THE TWO DAYS OF VOTING, MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL.

THEIR OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE POLLING IS HIGHLY POSITIVE. PRESIDING OFFICERS AND THEIR STAFF ON THE WHOLE WERE COMPETENT AND EFFICIENT. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SERIOUS PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE VOTERS' ROLL AND THE NUMBER OF INTENDING VOTERS WHO WERE UNABLE TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS. MOREOVER, AS A RESULT OF THE OBSTRUCTIONS PLACED IN THE WAY OF DOMESTIC MONITORS, THEIR EFFECTIVENESS WAS SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED.

OUR VERDICT ON THE COUNTING PROCESS WILL BE MADE CLEAR AT A

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LATER STAGE.

INTERIM ASSESSMENT

IN SUMMARY, THE VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION DURING THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD MUST BE CONDEMNED. THE COURTS SHOULD DEAL WITH ALL CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. THIS WILL BE ESSENTIAL IN HELPING TO RE-ESTABLISH RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW IN ZIMBABWE.

THE SERIOUS DEFECTS IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO THE VOTERS' ROLL AND THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY OF THE ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS HAD A CALMING AND STABILISING EFFECT.

WE COMMEND THE IMPRESSIVE MANNER IN WHICH THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE SHOWN THEIR DETERMINATION TO INFLUENCE THEIR OWN DESTINY.

THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD

OUR FINAL ASSESSMENT WILL COVER THE WHOLE PROCESS INCLUDING THE IMMEDIATE POST-ELECTION PERIOD. THE REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED TO EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERS STATES, TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, AS WELL AS TO THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) WHICH WILL MEET ON 5 JULY 2000. THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED WILL INCLUDE:

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-- THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE NEW DISPENSATION IN ZIMBABWE RESPECTS THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE;

-- HOW THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY ACCOMMODATES THE NEW POLITICAL REALITIES;

-- THE MANNER IN WHICH THE POLITICAL FORCES WITHIN THE COUNTRY WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING ZIMBABWE;

-- THE EXTENT TO WHICH RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS PROMOTED BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT; AND

-- WHAT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO ENSURE THAT POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED CRIMES AND ELECTORAL MALPRACTICE ARE PURSUED.

WITH HIGH AUTHORITY COMES HIGH RESPONSIBILITY. THE PRESIDENT OF ZIMBABWE WILL HAVE TO PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE POST ELECTION PHASE.

END TEXT.

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